

Central Coventry Fire District

Board Meeting

October 17, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.

1670 Flat River Rd.

Minutes

1. Call to Order – 7:11 p.m.

2. Roll Call

President: Fred P. Gralinski

Vice President: Marie Baker

**Directors: – Cynthia A. Fagan-Perry, Robert G. Hadley- Excused,
Maureen K. Jendzejec, Daniel K. Lantz Jr., Helen G. Quinn**

Treasurer:

Tax Collector:

Clerk: Christine Moniz

Chief: Andrew J. Baynes

President of the Union Dave Gorman

Legal Counsel Dave Dagostino

Also in attendance - members of the public, and Fire Department

**Definition of Emergency Meeting – David Dagostino wanted to go on
the record that yesterday in court the judge wanted item b on the**

agenda if the Board did not ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement. The question reads as follows whether or not the voters approve or reject the Board's proposed tax levy and assessment at the Special Meeting on October 21, if the resulting budget is not balanced does the Board recommend that this Court authorize the Special Master to close and liquidate the CCFD.

Since the Judge ordered that this question was to be added to the agenda the Board for CCFD did not have time to make the change in the 48 hour time allotted, however, since this is considered an emergency meeting it was appropriate to add this item. Michael Field, assistant attorney general recommended that the Board treat this meeting as an emergency 42-46-6 (c). This meeting can get posted as soon as possible and upon the call of the meeting state why the item has been added and why this is an emergency meeting. Mr. Dagostino this meeting is not an emergency meeting but adding the agenda item 4b that was an emergency, Mr. Dagostino also stated to the Board need not vote to call this meeting since the meeting was already called.

Chiefs report - Staffing: Remains in accordance with the 29 March 2013 directive and is deployed as I reported on 2 October 2013.

Run Volume: The Department responded to an additional 146 incidents since my last report of 2 October.

Automatic aid was given 10 times since my last report, while automatic aid was received 11 times during this time.

Mutual aid was given to West Warwick twice during this time and received from Scituate once.

Fire Prevention & Public Relations: Licensed establishments and places of assembly inspections are almost completed, in concurrence with the RISFM's office.

The District is assisting the School Department with the completion of items ordered by the Fire Code Board of Appeals, as well getting an extension of time granted to finalize these improvements. A tentative hearing date on this issue is set for the end of November.

On 15 October I was notified by the ISO Field Office via phone that they would be dispatching a survey team in the immediate future to re-evaluate the community in light of inquiries from a number of companies regarding renewal rates. I informed the Board President of these contacts via email that day.

Vehicle Maintenance: With the increase in the frequency of PM on all units, all in-service units are in operational condition, with E-7 down for PM being covered by the reserve unit.

Training: EMS report changes and methodology of electronic filing training has been completed on all Platoons and since our online date of 7 October we have experienced some connectivity issues on the State bridge side which is being addressed. License recertification and other updates are well underway and continue at this time.

On duty companies will be randomly testing hydrant flow's District wide shortly. Downtime due to vehicle repairs has delayed this project. Notifications will be posted online and in the local papers.

Conclusion: The Department stays available and able to respond at

the 29 March strength at this time.

The President went into moving to discussion of action on old/unfinished business. The President was then reminded to have a motion made to accept the Chiefs report.

**Motion made to accept the Chiefs Report by Director Fagan-Perry and
Seconded by Director Quinn**

All Vote Aye.

Tax Collectors Report – Director Jendzejec went over the amount collected by the Tax Office that amount to date totals \$ 1,389,306.27. The total uncollected taxes are \$490,446.28

Motion to accept the tax collectors report made by Director Fagan-Perry and seconded by V.P. Baker

All Voted Aye.

The President moved into getting into budget issues and stated that we will be voting on the Budget October 21, 2013.

The President then opened the floor to discussion and questions.

Mr. Vocca – stated that he is disturbed that the budget that the Board was going to present has the potential to have a shortfall. He stated he heard this on the news as stated by one of our Board Members.

He is also concerned that the money owed to the Town was not in the budget. He stated that the Board was voted onto the Board in good faith. That he realizes that the Board has been working very hard, but is still concerned in the budget that they are presenting.

Mr. Assalone – that if we cannot get the concessions from the union that the Board should really move to dissolving the district. He also stated that on the day of October 21st to support the Board and vote in their budget.

President stated that if we really run the district it would take 7.2 million and that they did not make up those numbers.

Mrs. Fisher – wanted to know when we are going to go over line by line the budget. She is having a hard time understanding the budget. The President stated that we backed into a budget sometimes in business this is what you have to do. She also stated that first when she was a board member she learned there things one was you cannot bankrupt a district the bills will have to get paid. That two there was an audit going on but Mr. Land put a stop to it at the time it was being done to save money, and three the safety of the District would be

Tami Ducksbury wanted to know what the concessions were made by the union and as per the Lawyer they could not discuss the concessions yet due to it being confidential.

Mr. Gizzarelli – stated that this is only the beginning and that you can always revise things if necessary and that the solution is not to dissolve the district but to get the best budget and get the fine tuning done in the future but in the same time it is not a normal budget but it is for the health and safety of the public and the safety of the firefighters.

Mr. Steven Fay – asked about the fire insurance and the potential increase in the cost to the districts tax payers. He also wants to know what is going to happen. He also discussed a correction to a comment made that if the district is down a rescue they would be out the rescue until it is repaired. The Chief could call another town to borrow one. This is what's done all the time.

Resident from 4 Baltry Lane – asked to not get rid of the rescue. He also wanted to know if the rescue recovery money goes into the account.

Mr. St. Jean Town Farm Road – wanted to know what the consequences would be if we liquidated and how much it will still cost.

David Dagostino made a comment that the Board has a role to play

and they have the ability to help manage expenses but are the ultimate decision comes from the Judge.

Discussion and Action on Ratification of the revisions to the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Director Quinn after Mr. Dagostino's commend made a motion to not except the concessions made between the Union the Board of Directors. She asked for a second V.P. Baker made a second to the motion.

Mr. Dagostino asked the Board to take a roll call vote to recommend to the Judge to liquidate if the Budget is not approved on October 21, 2013.

Next order of business was to vote on the recommendations to close and liquidate the Fire District based on the request of the court and it is only their recommendation. The President asked Director Jendzejec she voted yes in favor, Director Fagan-Perry voted yes to liquidate, V.P Baker voted yes to liquidate, Director Quinn votes to Liquidate, Director Lantz votes to Liquidate and Director Hadley votes to Liquidate.

The President made a motion to adjourn the meeting the Motion made by Director Fagan-Perry and Seconded by Director Quinn.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.